

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 03939 081218Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 CU-04
TRSE-00 BIB-01 HA-05 /065 W
-----016079 081228Z /17

P 081212Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8747
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 03939

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OGEN, SOPN, CGEN, UR
SUBJECT: INCIDENT INVOLVING AMERICAN JOURNALIST

1. BALTIMORE SUN CORRESPONDENT HAL PIPER INFORMS US THAT HE WAS STOPPED AT SOVIET BREST BORDER POINT ON MARCH 2 WHILE RETURNING TO MOSCOW FROM A REPORTING TRIP TO YUGOSLAVIA AND POLAND. PIPER WAS DETAINED (POLITELY) FOR 4 1/2 HOURS AND FINALLY SENT ON HIS WAY AFTER A SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITY OF PRINTED MATTER (CLIPPINGS, TELEX COPIES OF NEWS STORIES, RL/RFE RESEARCH BULLETINS) WAS TAKEN FROM HIM. BULK OF CONFISCATED ITEMS DEALT WITH YUGOSLAVIA AND POLAND, NOT USSR, AND PIPER HAD LEFT MOSCOW WITH THEM AND TRAVELLED IN EASTERN EUROPE WITH THEM WITHOUT INCIDENT.

2. PIPER SIGNED RECEIPT FOR TOTAL OF FIFTY-TWO CONFISCATED ITEMS, AND AS HE WAS DOING SO SOVIETS RECORDED EVENT ON FILM.

3. PIPER HAS SENT HIS OWN LETTER TO MFA/PRESS SEEKING RETURN OF CONFISCATED MATERIAL. EMBASSY IS SEEKING EARLY
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 03939 081218Z

MEETING WITH MFA/PRESS AT COUNSELOR LEVEL TO REGISTER OUR OWN DISPLEASURE. WE WILL BASE OUR PRESENTATION ON FOLLOWING NON-PAPER:

--(BEGIN TEXT) ON THE EVENING OF MARCH 2, ENTERING THE SOVIET UNION BY PRIVATE CAR AT THE BORDER POINT OF BREST, AMERICAN JOURNALIST HAROLD PIPER, CHIEF OF THE MOSCOW

BUREAU OF THE BALTIMORE SUN NEWSPAPER, WAS DELAYED FOR
4 1/2 HOURS BY SOVIET CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES WHO CONFISCATED
CERTAIN OF MR. PIPER'S PERSONAL PAPERS.

--THE ITEMS TAKEN FROM MR. PIPER INCLUDED NEWSPAPER
CLIPPINGS, TELETYPE TRANSMISSIONS, AND RESEARCH MATERIALS.
ALL OF THESE ITEMS WERE LEGITIMATE JOURNALISTIC MATERIALS
WHICH MR. PIPER HAD USED FOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION
DURING WORKING VISITS TO SEVERAL EASTERN EUROPEAN
COUNTRIES. IT IS TO BE NOTED THAT NONE OF THESE MATERIALS
WERE QUESTIONED BY THE AUTHORITIES OF THOSE COUNTRIES
WHERE MR. PIPER WAS ENGAGED IN HIS JOURNALISTIC ACTIVITIES,
BUT WERE INSTEAD UNACCOUNTABLY CONFISCATED WHEN HE SOUGHT
TO RETURN TO MOSCOW FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF HIS
EASTERN EUROPEAN TRIP. THERE BEING NO LOGICAL EXPLANATION
FOR THE CONFISCATION OF THESE ITEMS, IT IS DESIRED THAT
THEY BE SWIFTLY RETURNED TO MR. PIPER. (END TEXT) TOON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JOURNALISTS, TRAVEL CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW03939
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780104-0234
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780393/aaaadats.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2fc597cb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3405453
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INCIDENT INVOLVING AMERICAN JOURNALIST
TAGS: OGEN, SOPN, CGEN, UR, US, BALTIMORE SUN, (PIPER, HAL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2fc597cb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014